Miss Dickens and Miss Highchurch were close. In her letter to Dr. W.K. Ross of April 7, 1922, Miss Dickens states that, at the bedside of her dying friend, she renewed her vow to avenge a "murdered" patient. The rest of her letter is a highly circumstantial complaint of the abuse of patients, which Miss Dickens feels is a major part of the history of the place, as long ago as the time of Dr. Daniel Clark, who "knew that cruelty went on ... and did his best to stop it" but underestimated the "gang he was up against."

The fact that Rev. Burns (the "voluntary" admission discussed above) was committed to the Asylum (and not, as he had expected, admitted to the General Hospital), seems to have aggravated his illness as much as the duplicity involved in his committal. A fragment of dialogue records his impressions:

> [Dr. Williams] What made you do that?
>
> [Rev. Burns] The horrors of a life like this.
>
> [Dr. Williams] Afraid here[?]
>
> [Rev. Burns] The fear of life in an asylum.
>
> [Dr. Williams] You feel hopeful?
>
> [Rev. Burns] It is the very worst place I could be to get well.

During another interview with Dr. Williams, Rev. Burns complains about the loud noises he heard during the night:

> Good Lord! that noise last night was terrible. Can't I do anything Williams to escape that. Is anything like that ever treated with serum?

Rev. Burns's fears of the Asylum were sufficient to be remarked by Dr. Williams in his "Summary," along with the suicide attempts. It is striking how much of the behavior noted here was directly caused by admission or committal to the Asylum.